

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3038

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

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EXDIS

8. STATING THAT HE WAS FAMILIAR WITH SUGGESTION MADE IN WASHINGTON TO SECRETARY RUSH, YEFREMOV SAID HE THOUGHT IT VERY CONSTRUCTIVE AND BENEFICIAL FOR GENERAL EFFORT OF IMPROVING RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, REMOVING HOTBEDS OF WAR, AND SECURING MORE STABLE PEACE IN WORLD. HE THEREFORE WISHED TO ASK AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND TO UNDERSTAND HIM CORRECTLY AND WEIGH ALL CONSEQUENCES OF ESTABLISHMENT OF FEA. WHILE HIS DISCUSSION WITH FRENCH AND UK AMBASSADORS HAD BEEN MORE GENERAL, HE SPOKE TO AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND VERY OPENLY SINCE U.S. WAS IN POSSESSION OF CONSTRUCTIVE SOVIET PROPOSAL.

9. AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND SAID THAT WHILE YEFREMOV HAD MADE A VERY CLEAR EXPOSITION OF SOVIET VIEWS, PROBLEM WAS NOT AS SIMPLE AS SOVIET APPROACH WOULD SUGGEST. WE WERE FACED WITH A QUESTION OF INTERPRETATION OF QA. FACT WAS THAT, IN OUR VIEW, A GOOD CASE IN LAW COULD BE MADE THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF FEA WAS CONSISTENT WITH QA. IT WAS ALSO A FACT THAT FEA WOULD HAVE NO GOVERNMENTAL FUNCTIONS IN WESTERN SECTORS, WHICH WOULD BE CONTRARY TO QA. AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND SAID HE WISHED TO REITERATE THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF FEA SHOULD NOT BE UNDERSTOOD AS OPENING DOOR FOR FLOOD OF FRG ACTIVITIES CONTRARY TO QA.

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THREE WESTERN POWERS WOULD ENSURE THAT NO FRG ACTIVITIES WHICH WERE CLEARLY IN VIOLATION OF QA WOULD TAKE PLACE. FEA WOULD NOT BE INCONSISTENT WITH QA SINCE IT WOULD NOT ISSUE ORDERS AND WOULD NOT EXERCISE DIRECT FRG GOVERNMENTAL

AUTHORITY OVER BERLIN. AS FOR FRG PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, PARTICIPATION BY WEST BERLIN DEPUTIES IN SUCH ELECTIONS WAS NOTHING NEW AND HAD TAKEN PLACE IN PAST WITHOUT SOVIET OBJECTION. IN THIS CONNECTION, AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND STRESSED THAT WE HAD NEVER UNDERSTOOD QA AS ELIMINATING PAST PRACTICES EXCEPT AS SPECIFICALLY STATED IN THAT AGREEMENT. IN ANY EVENT, IT WAS NORMAL PRACTICE FOR A STATE CLAIMING VIOLATION OF AGREEMENT NOT TO COMMIT VIOLATIONS OF ITS OWN BUT TO SECURE REMEDY BY OTHER MEANS. AS FOR SOVIET PROPOSAL REFERRED TO BY YEFREMOV, AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND SAID HE COULD NOT ADD ANYTHING TO WHAT SECRETARY RUSH HAD SAID, I.E., THAT WE WOULD WANT TO REFLECT BEFORE GIVING ANY FINAL VIEWS. BUT IN NO CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD RETALIATION BE JUSTIFIED, AS YEFREMOV HAD HINTED WITH RESPECT TO FEA. (YEFREMOV INTERJECTED THAT HE HAD NOT ONLY HINTED BUT HAD EXPLICITLY TO STATE THAT RETALIATION WOULD BE UNAVOIDABLE.) AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND CONTINUED THAT HE HOPED, THAT A SOLUTION ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES COULD BE FOUND, ALTHOUGH SUCH SOLUTION WOULD REQUIRE AN APPROACH DIFFERENT FROM THAT FOLLOWED BY SOVIETS NOW. STRESSING THAT IT WOULD NOT BE USEFUL TO REVIVE TENSIONS ABOUT BERLIN THAT HAD EXISTED IN PAST, AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND HOPED SOVIETS REALIZED THAT IF THE KIND OF ACTIONS YEFREMOV WAS TALKING ABOUT WERE AUTHORIZED, THEY WOULD RECEIVE WORLDWIDE PUBLICITY AND HAVE EFFECT BEYOND BERLIN AS WELL.

10. AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND SAID THAT WHAT BOTH SIDES NOW HAD TO DO WAS TO REFLECT ON SITUATION SO THAT WHEN DIALOGUE WAS RESUMED IN APPROPRIATE PLACE, ALL POINTS OF VIEW COULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. YEFREMOV'S PRESENTATION WAS CLEAR AND USEFUL IN THAT IT HELPED AVOID MISUNDERSTANDINGS. HOWEVER, IT SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED THAT DIFFERENCES IN INTERPRETATION SHOULD BE DEALT WITH AS SUCH RATHER THAN BY ACTIONS BASED ON ONE SIDE'S
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GEOGRAPHIC ADVANTAGE.

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